

Borough of Aldeburgh

ALDEBURGH



1. ~~Mr Muston~~ B.415
2. ~~Mr Morley Parry~~ A.421
3. ~~Mr Perry~~ A.405

Borough Offices.

Aldeburgh.

East Suffolk.

PHONE ALDEBURGH. 2971/2

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1968

C. H. IMRIE

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Aldeburgh

Mr. Mayor,
Aldermen, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1968, prepared in accordance with the instructions of the Council. This report is the twenty second for which I have been responsible. While the health and hygiene of the town have improved greatly over the years, there still remains much to be done, particularly with regard to sewage disposal which had always been a source of anxiety; this problem however now appears to be well on the way towards solution.

The recent publication of the Maud Report on Local Government perhaps merits some reference. As I see it the recommendations as they stand will, as far as Public Health is concerned, have two undesirable results. It will remove decision making from those who have personal knowledge of local problems and transfer it to some distant authority which cannot be familiar with local conditions. It will also remove from the public the opportunity of consulting personally those whose decisions will effect them. On the other hand however Local Government organisation has become so involved and cumbersome over the years that some form of reorganisation is essential. My personal feeling is that the Maud proposals form a basis for discussion and that the final solution may well be very different in many respects from the original report.

I would like to express my appreciation of the courtesy and consideration I have received from the Council during the year, and of the help and co-operation I have received from the Offices of the Council, especially Mr. Thompson, The Borough Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.

I am,

Your obedient Servant.

C. H. IMRIE

Medical Officer of Health.

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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health

C. H. Imrie, T.D., MB., ChB., D.P.H.,
Late Hon. Surgeon to H.M. The Queen

Public Health Inspector

J. A. Thompson, M. Inst. H.E., M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS 1968

Area of Borough 2,679 acres
Rateable Value £125,349
Product of ld. Rate £499

	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
Population	3180	3100	3070	3060	2970
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	10.7 (34)	12.6 (39)	11.4 (35)	13.4 (41)	13.2 (36)
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-	-	32 (1)	-	-
Death Rate per 1,000 population	15.4 (49)	17.1 (53)	21.8 (67)	15.03 (46)	19.8 (59)
Infantile Death Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	28.5 (1)	24.3 (1)	27.7 (1)

Figures in brackets are the
actual number of births and deaths.

Births and Deaths

Births	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	16	16	32
Illegitimate	1	1	2

Still Births

Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

<u>All Deaths</u>	22	27	49
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<u>Infantile Deaths</u>	-	-	-
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<u>Deaths associated with childbirth</u>	-	-	-
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Comparability

Birth Rate - Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	13.15
England and Wales per 1,000 population ...	15.80
Death Rate - Aldeburgh per 1,000 population	8.16
England and Wales per 1,000 population	11.70

The figures for births and death are very much in line with those of previous years, and are both rather below the national average. This however might well be expected in a population containing a high ratio of retired people.

The causes of death are again showing a similar pattern to previous years, with vascular and heart diseases being the most prevalent cause. The figures for cancer do not show any significant changes. Taken altogether the vital statistics can be regarded as satisfactory.

CAUSES OF DEATH

Cause of Death		Male	Female	Total
B19(1)	Malignant neoplasm - stomach	-	1	1
B19(6)	Other malignant neoplasm, etc.,	3	2	5
B46(4)	Other diseases of nervous system etc.,	1	-	1
B26	Chronic rheumatic heart disease	-	2	2
B27	Hypertensive disease	1	-	1
B28	Ischaemic Heart disease	6	4	10
B30	Cerebrovascular disease	5	8	13
B46(5)	Other diseases of circulatory system	1	3	4
B32	Pneumonia	2	1	3
B33(2)	Asthma	1	-	1
B43	Peptic Ulcer	1	-	1
B46(7)	Other diseases of digestive system	-	1	1
B46(10)	Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2	2
BE47	Motor vehicle accident	1	-	1
BE48	All other accidents	-	1	1
		11	18	29

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

During 1968 the number of notifications received was 67. The majority of these (57) were relating to measles which was prevalent in the early summer. It will be observed from the table appended that practically all the cases of measles were under the age of 10 years and the majority fell in the age group of 5 to 9. This was closely followed by the under 5 preschool group. The females rather outnumbered the males in this instance.

	0 - 4 yrs	5 - 9 yrs	10 - 15 yrs	Over 15	Total
Males	12	12	-	-	24
Females	11	19	-	3	33
Total	23	31	-	3	57

Two small outbreaks, one of sonne dysentery and the other of food poisoning occurred in the summer. These were both family affairs and occured in vistor As far as could be ascertained in both cases the infection was brought in by the families concerned when they arrived and was confirmed to them.

A sporadic case of infectious jaundice was reported and as often happens with this infection no connection with another case was established.

There were no new notifications of Tuberculosis during the year so that the total still remains at two, both being females.

IMMUNISATION

The following details of immunisations carried out in the Borough were supplied by the County Medical Officer. These figures indicate an active interest in these preventive measures among the population.

	<u>Primary Courses</u>	<u>Booster Dose or Revaccination</u>
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis	29	24
Diphtheria/Tetanus	-	26
Tetanus	8	33
Salk Poliomyelitis vaccine	1	2
Sablin Poliomyelitis Oral vaccine	37	32
Smallpox vaccination	25	1
Measles	54	

The rapidly increasing mobility of the population of the world raises considerable problems for those concerned with the control of infectious disease. Diseases which in the past were confined to one area of the globe are now liable to be carried practically anywhere and the old methods of control are not completely adequate.

For this reason it is wise, if one proposes to travel abroad, to be immunised against the more serious infections as far as possible especially if one is to pass through endemic areas.

HOUSING

The following statistics relate to the year 1968:-

No. of Council Houses completed during the year	Nil
No. of Council Houses occupied at 31/3/68	185
No. of private houses completed during the year	7
Total number of units of accommodation with the Borough	1368
No. of houses inspected in 1968	8
No. of unsatisfactory houses	5
No. rendered fit by informal action	5
Abatement notices served	Nil
No. of demolition orders secured	Nil
No. of dwellings demolished	2
No. of Improvement Grants - Discretionary	5
No. of Improvement Grants - Standard	2

Although the council did not complete any additional houses in 1968 a small number of private houses were added to make a total of 1368 units of accommodation in the Borough. The average number of persons per house 2.3 which does not indicate any degree of crowding.

During the year inspections was carried on and when defects were found remedical action was obtained in all cases.

The caravan sites, which are licensed to stand 295 carvans during the summer season was maintained in a satisfactory condition.

WATER SUPPLY

During 1968 the water supply to the town maintained an adequate standard. A mid year sample submitted to the Public Analyst was reported to be fit for drinking purposes. The Public Analyst however remarked on the high level of Salinity in the sample. This has been found from time to time and is of course due to the near promity of the sea. Salinity of this degree is in no way harmful and might well not detected by taste by those accustomed to the water.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER

Sample taken from	Aldeburgh Waterworks
Date received	29th July 1968
Appearance	Clear, trace brown deposit
Nature of deposit	Nil
Colour	Nil
Taste	Satisfactory
Reaction	Faintly alkaline - pH.7.4

RESULTS OF CHEMICAL ANALYSIS IN PARTS PER MILLION

Ammoniacal nitrogen	0.02
Albuminoid nitrogen	0.02
Nitrate nitrogen	9
Nitrite nitrogen	nil
Chloride as Cl.	386
Permanganate Value	0.29
Hardness as CaCO ₃	
Total	390
Carbonate (temporary)	210
Non-carbonate (permanent)	180
Alkalinity as CaCO ₃	210
Free carbon dioxide	14
Total solids (at 180°C)	790
Iron (total)	0.04
Metals in solution	nil

OPINION

This water is of very good organic quality, with no chemical evidence of pollution. The salinity is much higher than in figures previously recorded and corresponds to a salt (sodium chloride) content of 640 parts per million. Although this proportion of salt content has no adverse effect on health, many persons unaccustomed to such a drinking water would complain of the taste.

The remainder of the analysis is similar to that of previous samples, except that the total dissolved solids content is higher than usual because of the increased salt content. In our opinion, this water is fit for drinking purposes.

for Lincolne Sutton & Wood Limited

(sgd) E. C. Wood

REFUSE DISPOSAL

There has been little material change in the methods of collection and the disposal of refuse and the pulveriser has given good service.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

During the year the sewage scheme was pushed ahead and its completion can now be anticipated within the not too distant future. This will remove a source of worry which has been felt for a long time.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

No action was necessary under Section 47 of the above act which deals with the removal to hospital of aged or disabled persons who are not receiving the necessary care and attention.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT.

Premises where treatment were carried out:-

Dwellinghouses, - 43
Other Premises - 10

FOOD PREMISES

Number of Food Premises by type of business

Grocers	12	Ice Cream	13
Dairies	2	Butchers	3
Licensed Premises ...	17	Fried and Wet Fish ...	2
Bakers	3	Greengrocers	5
Sweets other than grocers	4	Cafes	3

Number of Food Premises Registered under Section 16 of the FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

Ice Cream Dealers	13	Sausage manufacturers	3
No. of inspectors of Registered Premises			58
No. found unsatisfactory			4
No. rendered satisfactory			2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 to 1959
Prescribed Particulars on the Administration
of The Factories Act 1961

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	6	-	-
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	12	-	-	-
ii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	19	8	-	-
Totals	34	14	-	-

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
effective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	1	1	-	-	-
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-Work)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	-	-

